

Items to Bring to an Emergency Shelter

No one ever wants to go to a shelter. But being prepared and taking some personal items with you makes the stay a little more comfortable. If you have a to-go-bag already organized bring it. If not, here are some ideas of what you could bring with you.

Food

The shelter normally provides food. If you want comfort food or you are on a special diet, you should bring your own food.

Clothing & Bedding

You should have two changes of clothing. Have an additional pair of sturdy shoes and foul weather gear. Usually there is a cot, but not always is there bedding. A sleeping bag, blanket and pillow would make it more comfortable to sleep.

Personal Items

Some shelters have bathing facilities. Bring toiletries that you need for bathing and freshening up. A washcloth and towel would be handy. Many shelters have first aid kits, but you can bring your own too. Don't forget your prescription medicines.

Important Documents and Information

Contact information for your relatives, in particular a relative outside the incident area. Contact information of your doctors and list of medicines that you take and what they are for. Photograph of family, in case someone(s) is missing. Papers that show proof of: insurance, ownership, kinship etc.

Miscellaneous

Cell phone and charger, radio, and flashlight are all important to have. Don't forget the items to occupy your mind like, games, cards, toys and books. Bring ear plugs to help you sleep.

Pets

General shelters do not always accept pets. If you evacuate your home take your pets. You should make prior arrangements for them.

Not Allowed

Alcoholic beverages and weapons are not allowed in shelters. Smoking is not allowed in the shelters either.